

Media Report 29 Dec 2023

This weeks media reports will cover and answer great questions veterans are still asking and local Media Articles and An illness or injury can have an impact on your ability to adjust to life after service. We all need healthcare services. The Treatment benefits program provides coverage for a variety of benefits and services to help you get—and stay healthy

Minister's Season Greeting 2023 / Vœux des Fêtes de la ministre 2023

Dear stakeholders,

As we near the end of the year, this period of reflection allows me to look back on the work we have accomplished together. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all you do for our Veteran community at large.

In our short time together, I have seen how impactful your work is. From coast to coast to coast, thank you all for your service, your support to Canadian Veterans and for the open and honest conversations I have had with many of you since becoming Minister of Veterans Affairs.

I encourage you to take this opportunity to look after your physical and mental well-being, connect with loved ones and enjoy a peaceful, joyous holiday season. As we welcome 2024, I look forward to what this year will bring as we continue to accomplish great things for all Canadian Veterans and their families. Happy holidays, Merry Christmas and have a wonderful New Year.

Take Care,

Ginette Petitpas Taylor

Minister of Veterans Affairs

and Associate Minister of National Defence

Chers partenaires,

Alors que nous approchons de la fin de l'année, cette période de réflexion me permet de revenir sur le travail que nous avons accompli ensemble. Du fond du

cœur, je vous remercie pour tout ce que vous faites pour l'ensemble de la communauté des vétérans.

Même si je suis avec vous depuis peu, j'ai pu constater à quel point votre travail est important. D'un océan à l'autre, merci à tous et à toutes pour votre service, pour votre soutien aux vétérans et aux vétérans canadiens et pour les conversations ouvertes et honnêtes que j'ai eues avec bon nombre d'entre vous depuis que je suis devenue ministre des Anciens Combattants.

Je vous encourage à profiter de cette occasion pour prendre soin de votre bien-être physique et mental, passer du temps avec vos proches et profiter d'un temps des Fêtes paisible et joyeux.

À l'aube de 2024, j'attends avec impatience de voir ce que cette année nous apportera alors que nous continuerons à accomplir de grandes choses pour tous les vétérans canadiens et leur famille.

Je vous souhaite un merveilleux temps des Fêtes, un joyeux Noël et une bonne année.

Prenez soin de vous,
Ginette Petitpas Taylor
Ministre des Anciens Combattants et
Ministre associée de la Défense nationale
IN THE NEWS

1. Engineers presented with Meritorious Service Medals

CMEA

From Nov. 10: Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, presented 55 Meritorious Service Medals (M.S.M.), during a ceremony at Rideau Hall on Thursday, Nov. 9. [Read More](#)

2. Temporary recruitment incentive offered for qualifying occupations

Canadian Military Family Magazine

From March 10: As part of the Canadian Armed Forces' continued efforts to create a robust and operational military, certain occupations are now eligible for an additional pay increment following the completion of Basic Military Qualification. It is a temporary recruitment incentive offered between Nov. 28, 2022, and March 31, 2025, stated CANFORGEN 014/23 CMP 008/23. [Read More](#)

3. Little Green Monsters gather one last time

CMEA via The Chilliwack Progress



From July 28: In 1996, the Little Green Monsters held what they thought would be their final reunion. With CFB Chilliwack closing, the Sapper Apprentices thought it was the end of the road. Then they kept on having reunions for another next 26 years... [Read More](#)

4. 'What a tremendous opportunity': Base Gagetown welcomes first female Engineer CTC commander

CTV News

From July 21: A changing of the guard took place as command of the Combat Training Center changed hands at the 5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown. Colonel Barbara Honig takes over from retiring Colonel Shane Murphy as the 28th Commander of the unit, and is the first woman in the role. [Read More](#)

5. Military under fire as thousands of troops face lost cost-of-living allowance

CTV News

From March 31: The Canadian Armed Forces is under fire for its plan to cut thousands of troops off a cost-of-living allowance without much notice. The military announced last week that about 7,700 Armed Forces members will no longer receive the top-up starting in July, when it will be replaced by a new housing benefit that commanders say will better assist those who need the most help. [Read More](#)

6. This year's Silver Cross Mother is a sapper mom

CTV News

From Nov. 3: Chris Holopina called his mom in Manitoba every single week while he was deployed in Bosnia in 1996. At 22, he was doing exactly what he'd always wanted to do: Serving in the Canadian Armed Forces as a combat engineer. [Read More](#)

7. Double-double: The history of Bailey bridges built by the Royal Canadian Engineers

CMEA

From Oct. 6: On Sept. 27, 2023, Dr. Linda Newton, an ex-CME officer, and LCol Ken Holmes (Ret'd), CME Historian, presented a Tri-partite Civil Engineering Webinar covering the history of Bailey bridges built by the RCE. The presentation followed this outline:

- The Bailey bridge — A description of how a Bailey bridge was developed and built in all of its configurations;
- The Royal Canadian Engineers — A brief history of the RCE;
- The Bailey bridge during the Second World War;
- Post-war use; and
- The Future.

[Read More](#)

8. Canadian Army Commander announces Reserve Unit COs and RSM appointments

Canadian Military Family Magazine

From April 14: The Canadian Army recently announced a number of Canadian Army Reserve Unit Commanding Officer (CO) and Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) appointments. According to a message released by Commander Canadian Army LGen. Paul, the following members have been appointed under the authority of their respective CA Division Commands. [Read More](#)

9. The Ukrainian army has already lost half of its unique Leopard 2R breaching vehicles

Forbes

From June 16: The engineer battalions of the 33rd Mechanized and 47th Assault Brigades, the lead formations in Ukraine's 2023 counteroffensive, suffered heavy equipment losses in their assault just south of Mala Tokmachka recently. [Read More](#)

10. 120th Anniversary of the CME

MGen (Ret'd) Daniel Benjamin, CMM, CD, Colonel Commandant of the Canadian Military Engineers

From April 28: As the years go by, the world situation appears to be worsening, be it from natural disasters associated with climate change, conflicts like that in Ukraine, tensions in the China Sea, or hostilities in the Middle East. As Canadian Military Engineers, we are expected to be ready to respond when called upon just as we always have. On April 29, 2023, we will commemorate the 120th anniversary of the Canadian Military Engineers. Our anniversary is a good opportunity to reflect on the fundamental importance of the CME contributions to Canadian Armed Forces operations, whether supporting fellow Canadians during a domestic emergency or supporting fellow CAF members and our Allies on missions abroad. [Read More](#)

10. 120e Anniversaire du GMC

MGen (Ret'd) Daniel Benjamin, CMM, CD, Colonel Commandant du Génie militaire canadien

Le 28 avril: Plus les années passent et plus la situation mondiale semble se détériorer, que ce soit au niveau des désastres naturels associés aux changements climatiques ou les

conflits comme la guerre en Ukraine, les tensions autour de la mer de Chine et les hostilités au Moyen-Orient. À titre d'ingénieurs militaires canadiens, les attentes sont que nous répondions à ces appels comme nous l'avons toujours fait. En ce 29 avril 2023, nous commémorons notre 120e anniversaire du Génie militaire canadien et il m'apparaît opportun de nous remémorer le fait que notre contribution aux opérations des Forces armées canadiennes est fondamentale et critique, que ce soit lors des opérations domestiques en soutien de nos populations suite à des désastres naturels ou lors des missions outremer en soutien de nos troupes et celles de nos Alliés. [Lire Plus](#)

11. Vancouver's Bailey Bridge

Eve Lazarus

From Feb. 10: It took more than a week to fix a large pothole in the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge last month. But in 1944, the Royal Canadian Engineers threw up a Bailey Bridge in just 10 hours. [Read More](#)

12. Quilt of Valour presented to Ret'd Sapper Curtis Bond

Kimberley Bulletin

From Sept. 15: It was a real pleasure wrapping a Quilt of Valour around Ret'd Sapper Curtis Bond. Curtis served with the Canadian Armed Forces Combat Engineers. After being medically released he used his military training in the Ukraine. He continues to do humanitarian work. We are so proud of you Curtis and "thank you for your Service, then and now." [Read More](#)

13. Remembering Operation Medusa

Canadian Military Family Magazine

From Sept. 8: On Sept. 2, 2006, more than 1,000 Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members, along with hundreds of soldiers from other countries embarked on what would be the largest Canadian combat operation since the Korean War. Considered one of the deadliest operations in recent military history, Operation Medusa had a lasting impact on the war

against the Taliban and is a battle that is still reflected upon by many Canadians to this day. [Read More](#)

14. Remembering the Fallen Sappers of D-Day: June 6, 1944

CMEA

From June 2: Tuesday June 6, 2023, marks the 79th Anniversary of the D-Day landings. On that day in 1944, 359 Canadians were killed in action on the beaches of Normandy. Among these were 19 sappers, many of whom were the first Canadian soldiers to set foot on Juno Beach leading the effort to and troops on the obstacle-covered landing. D-Day was the beginning of the Battle of Normandy which lasted well into August and would claim nearly 5000 more young Canadian lives. [Read More](#)

15. Op SAPPER CLAUS 2023

CMEA

From Dec. 1: This year's Sapper Claus marks the tenth anniversary of this programme. In those 10 years, the CMEA has shipped Christmas greetings and gifts to over 1,400 Engineers serving on deployment or in the far north over the holiday season away from family and friends. [Read More](#)

14 Wing Greenwood — [The Aurora](#)
22 Wing North Bay — [The Shield](#)
4 Wing Cold Lake — [The Courier](#)
CFB Esquimalt — [The Lookout](#)
CFSU Ottawa — [The Guard](#)
CFB Shilo — [The Shilo Stag](#)
19 Wing Comox — [The Totem Times](#)
8 Wing Trenton — [The Contact](#)
CFB Petawawa — [The Petawawa Post](#)
15. Op SAPPER CLAUS 2023

17 Wing Winnipeg — [The Voxair](#)
CFB Halifax — [The Trident](#)
CFB Edmonton — [The Western Sentinel](#)
CFB Valcartier — [The Adsum](#)
CFB Kingston — [Garrison News](#)
CFB St Jean — [The Servir](#)
3 Wing Bagotville — [The Vortex](#)
CFB Borden — [The Citizen](#)
Base Gagetown — [Gagetown Gazette](#)